

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00293 031334Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 TRSE-00 /055 W
-----062230 031337Z /47

P 022030Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1070
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUEBEC 0293

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: "E PLURIBUS UNUM;" QUEBEC OLD POLS NOT YET CONVINCED.

1. UNION NATIONALE LEADER, RODRIGUE BIRON, OVER PAST WEEKEND PREDICTED FUSION OF QUEBEC'S FRAGMENTED OPPOSITION. FIRST STEP IN PROCESS, HE SAID, WOULD BE COMMON FRONT TO DEFEAT INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY FORMAL FUSION OF OPPOSITION PARTIES TO FIGHT SUBSEQUENT GENERAL ELECTION. BIRON BASED NEED FOR UNITY ON RESULTS OF LAST ELECTION IN WHICH PQ WON LARGE MAJORITY OF SEATS IN ASSEMBLY WITH ONLY 41 PERCENT OF POPULAR VOTE. HE REASONED THAT UNITED OPPOSITION COMMANDING MAJORITY OF POPULAR VOTE WOULD ASSURE PARLIAMENTARY VICTORY. OTHERWISE, PQ COULD AGAIN SLIP BETWEEN DIVIDED FEDERALISTS.

2. LEADING LIBERALS TODAY PUBLICLY REJECTED BIRON'S LINE OF REASONING. REPORTEDLY, THEY CONSIDER LAST NOVEMBER 15 RESULTS AS ANOMALOUS. THEY BELIEVE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR RELATIVELY HEAVY UNION NATIONALE VOTE (18 PERCENT), WHICH EFFECTIVELY SPLIT FEDERALISTS AND ALLOWED PQ WIN WITH PLURALITY, WAS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00293 031334Z

TEMPORARY ALIENATION OF MANY NORMALLY LIBERAL VOTERS. AT LEAST SOME OF LIBERALS ASSUME MANY OF THESE ERRANT VOTERS WILL RETURN TO LIBERAL FOLD AS DISPLEASURE WITH FORMER GOVERNMENT DISSIPATES AND LIBERALS REGAIN THEIR "NATURAL" MAJORITY. LIBERAL LEADERS ARE ALSO COUNTING ON FEAR OF SEPARATISM TO REGAIN ITS POTENCY AS PQ CONTINUES MOVE IN SOVEREIGN DIRECTION AND THREAT TO ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES QUEBEC ENJOYS BY REMAINING IN CANADIAN

CONFEDERATION BECOMES MORE APPARENT.

3. COMMENT: WE TEND AGREE MORE WITH BIRON'S ANALYSIS THAN WITH WISHFUL THINKING OF LIBERALS. THERE IS NO APPARENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ARGUMENT THAT LIBERALS ENJOY HISTORIC MAJORITY IN QUEBEC. PARTY HAS HELD POWER IN QUEBEC FOR ONLY SOME 17 OF PAST 40 YEARS. OF MORE PERTINENCE, RISE OF PQ AS QUEBECOIS NATIONALIST MOVEMENT HAS PROFOUNDLY CHANGED CHARACTER OF PROVINCIAL POLITICS. MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS AGREE SEPARATISM DOMINATES ALL OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES IN QUEBECOIS CONCERN. SEEMS EQUALLY INCONTESTABLE THAT OPPOSITION TO THIS FUNDAMENTAL THREAT CAN ONLY BE WEAKENED BY DISUNITY. THUS, ONLY RATIONAL ACTION FOR FEDERALISTS IS TO UNITE IN OPPOSING RELATIVELY COHESIVE SEPARATISTS. MOST RESPONSIBLE LIBERAL LEADERS PRIVATELY SHARE THIS VIEW IN PRINCIPLE, BUT ARE TEMPTED REJECT SPECIFIC UNITY PROPOSALS COMING FROM SOMEONE LIKE BIRON WHOM THEY VIEW AS SELF STYLED CANDIDATE FOR LEADERSHIP OF FUTURE UNITED OPPOSITION. THUS, OPPOSITION TO SEPARATISM IS AT PRESENT IMPEDED BY PROVINCIAL LIBERAL LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE, AS WELL AS, BY POLITICAL ANTAGONISMS AND AMBITIONS LINGERING FROM QUIETER PAST WHEN BIGGEST INTEREST AT STAKE WAS CONTROL OF PATRONAGE.
MCNAMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY UNITY, PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUEBEC00293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770278-0122
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708106/aaaadmcz.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1db9e4f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1418480
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: \"E PLURIBUS UNUM;\" QUEBEC OLD POLS NOT YET CONVINCED.
TAGS: PINT, CA, (BIRON, RODRIGUE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1db9e4f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009